

## APPENDIX

# A Foundation Investigations

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Please note that these conversion tables are approximate. They can be used by characterizing the soil as being either predominately granular or cohesive. If possible, the conversion of the penetration index (N Value) should be checked by performing labatory or in-situ tests.

### GRANULAR SOILS

<u>COMPACTNESS</u>	<u>VERY LOOSE</u>	<u>LOOSE</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>DENSE</u>	<u>VERY DENSE</u>
Relative Density, $D_d$	15%	35%	65%	85%	
Standard Penetration Resistance, $N = \text{Blows}/\text{ft}^*$	4	10	30	50	
Angle of Internal Friction, $\phi$	28	30	36	41	
Unit Weight (pcf)					
Moist	100	95-125	110-130	110-140	130+
Submerged	60	55-65	60-70	65-85	75+

VERY LOOSE: A reinforcing rod can be pushed into soil several feet.  
 DENSE: Difficult to drive a 2x4 stake with a sledge hammer.

\*  $N = \text{Blows}/\text{Ft}$  as measured by the standard penetration test  
 (See Appendix B).

Relative Density,  $D_d = \frac{e_{\max} - e}{e_{\max} - e_{\min}} \times 100$

$e$  = existing void ratio of mass being considered.  
 $e_{\max}$  = void ratio of same mass in its loosest state.  
 $e_{\min}$  = void ratio of same mass in its most compact state.

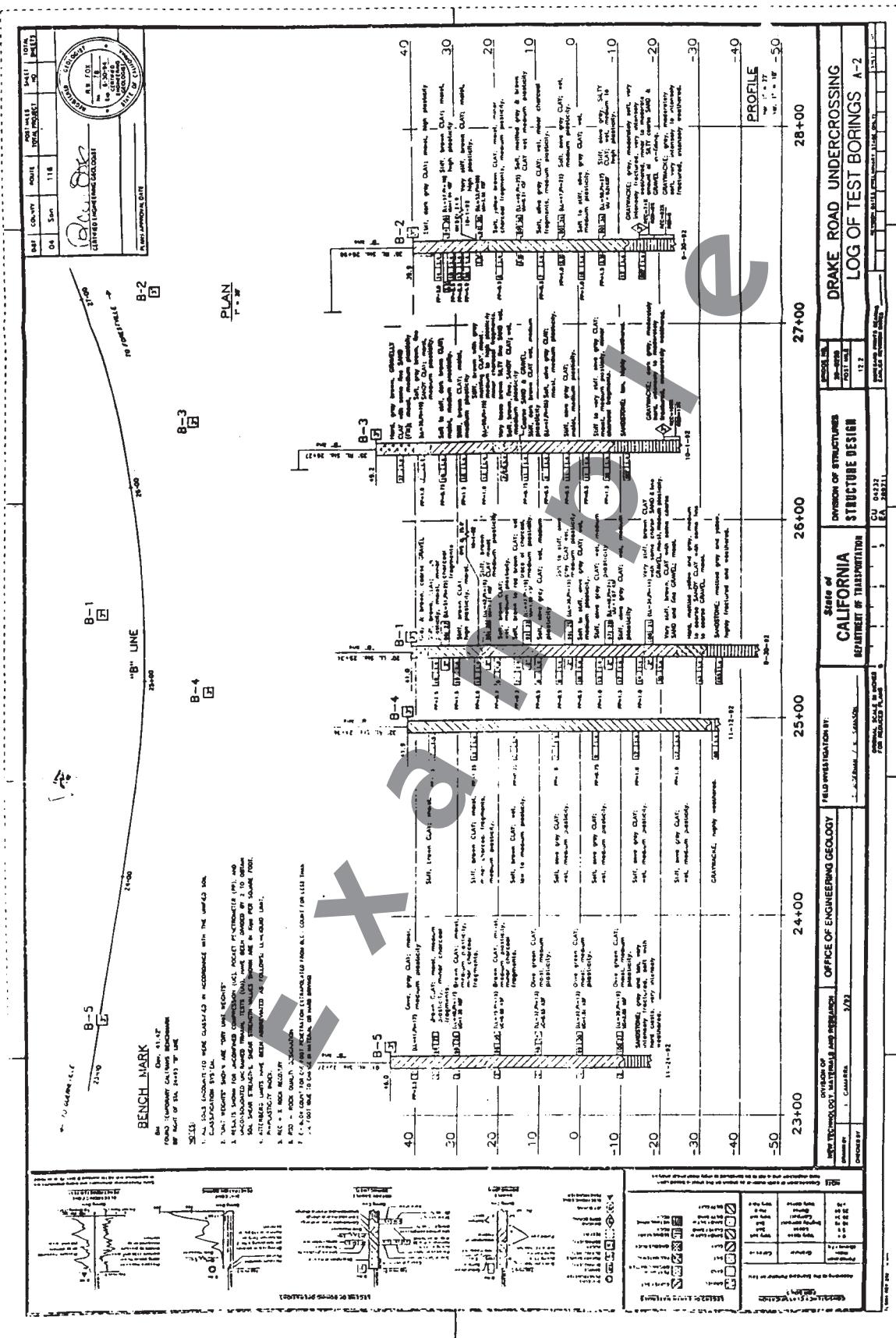
## COHESIVE SOILS

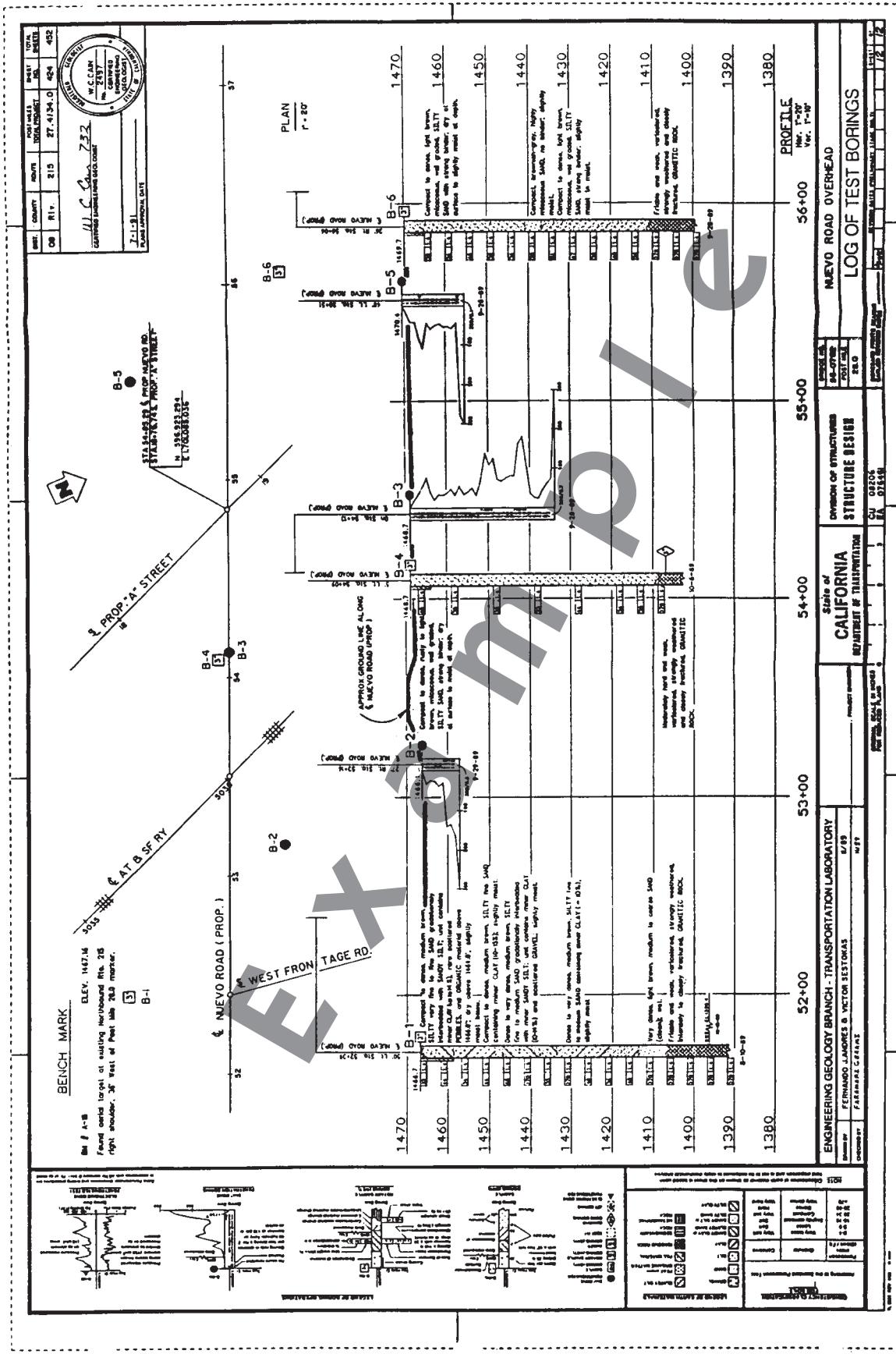
<u>CONSISTENCY</u>	<u>VERY SOFT</u>	<u>SOFT</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>STIFF</u>	<u>VERY STIFF</u>	<u>HARD</u>
$q_u$ = unconfined comp. strength (PSF)	500	1000	2000	4000	8000	
Standard Penetration Resistance, N = Blows/Ft *	2	4	8	16	32	
Unit Weight (PCF) Saturated	100-120	110-130	120-140	130+		

VERY SOFT: Exudes from between fingers when squeezed in hand.  
 SOFT: Molded by light finger pressure.  
 MEDIUM: Molded by strong finger pressure.  
 STIFF: Indent by thumb.  
 VERY STIFF: Indent by thumb nail.  
 HARD: Difficult to indent by thumb nail.

\* N = Blows/Ft as measured by the standard penetration test  
(See Appendix B).

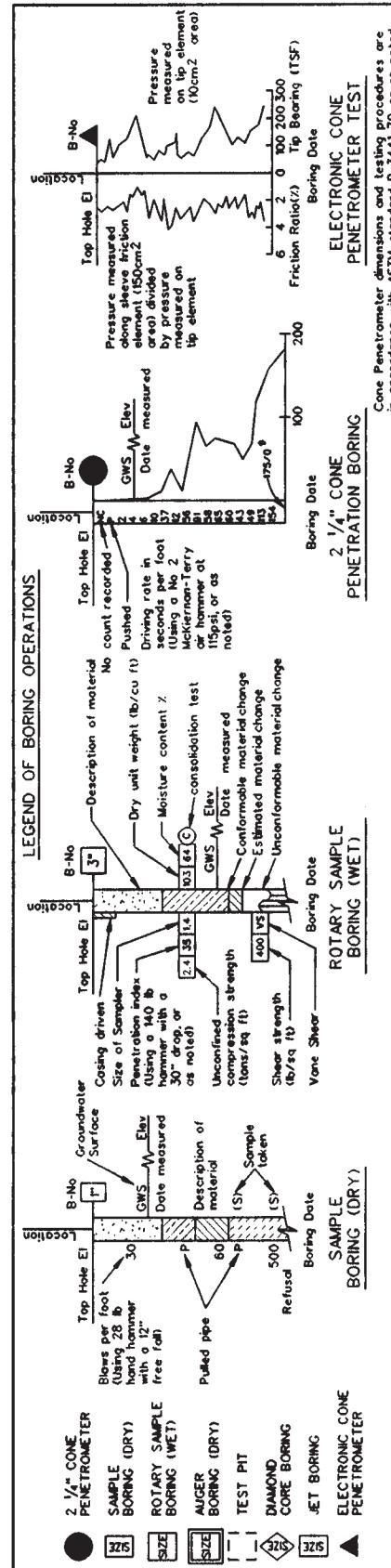
To be used only as a rough guide.





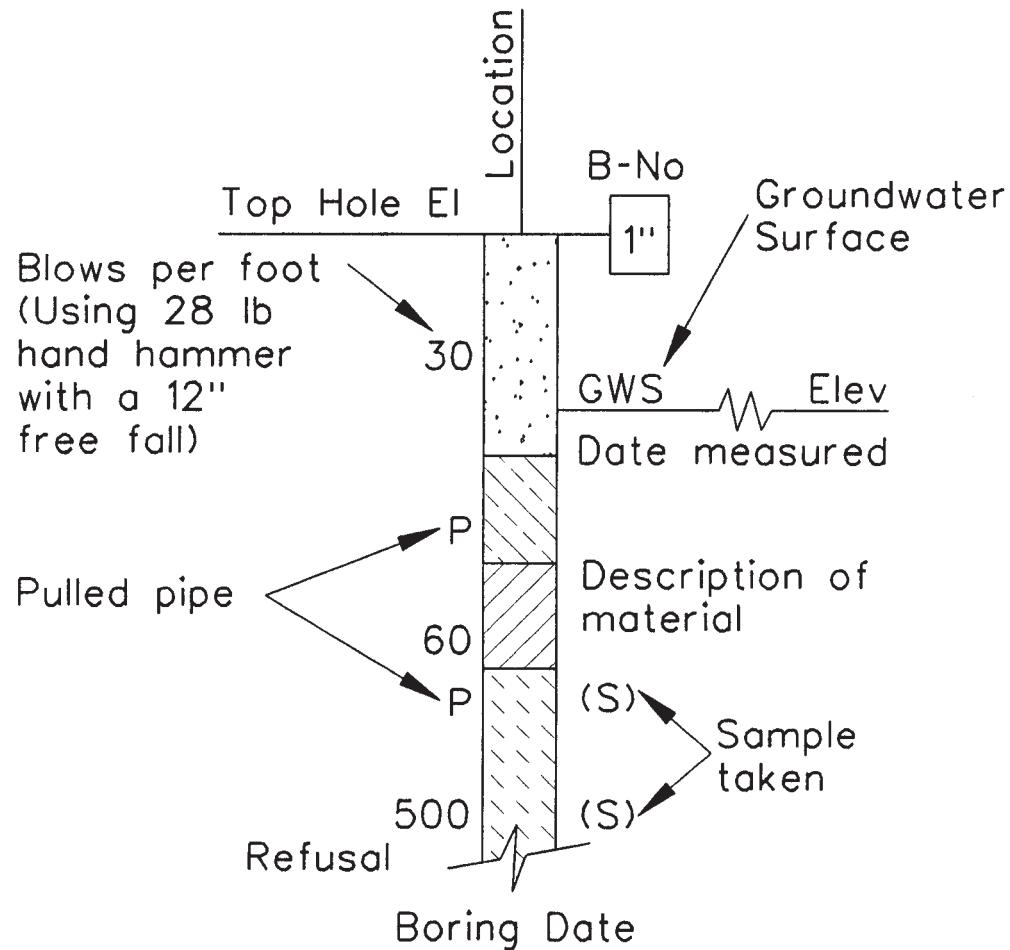
<u>CONSISTENCY CLASSIFICATION FOR SOILS</u>		<u>LEGEND OF EARTH MATERIALS</u>	
According to the Standard Penetration test			
Penetration index (Blows/ft)	Granular	Cohesive	
0-4	Very loose Loose	Very soft Soft	CLAY SILT
5-9	Slightly compact Compact	Stiff	ORGANIC MATTER AND/OR PEAT SEDIMENTARY ROCK
10-19	Compact	Very stiff	METAMORPHIC ROCK
20-34	Dense	Hard	IGNEOUS ROCK
35-69	Very dense	Very hard	SANDY CLAY CLAYEY SAND SILTY SAND SILTY CLAY
>70			

**NOTE:**  
Classification of earth materials as shown on this sheet is based upon field inspection and is not to be construed to imply mechanical analysis

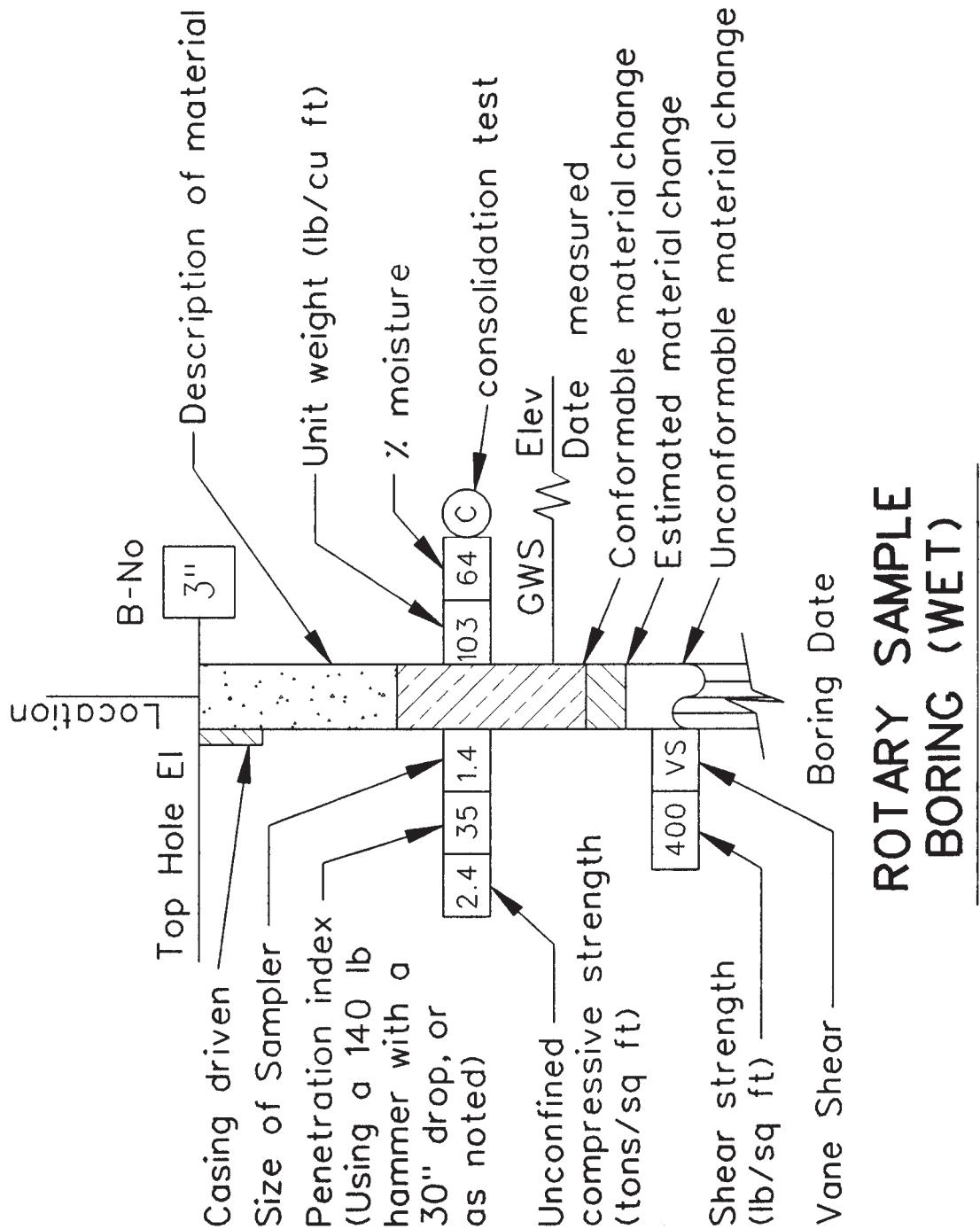


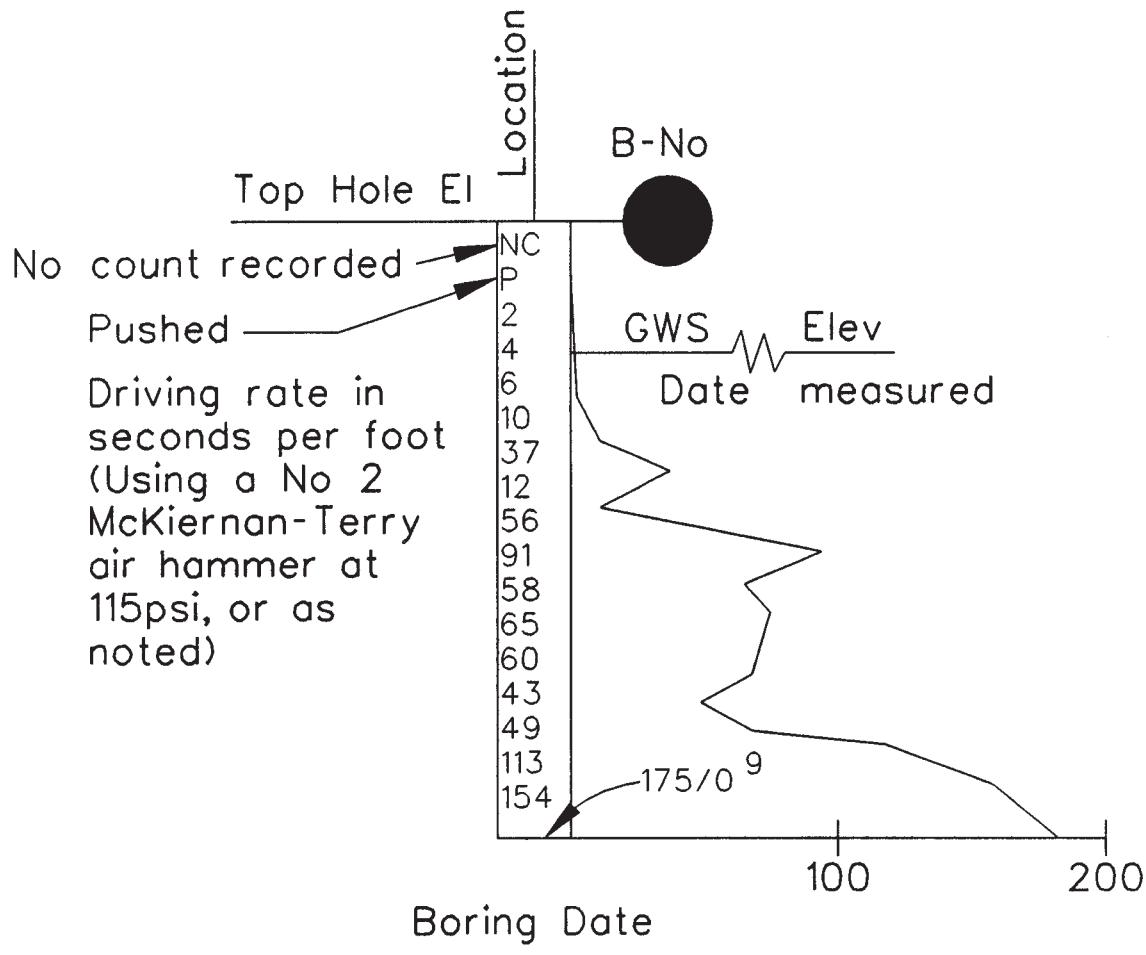
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-  2 1/4" CONE  
PENETROMETER
-  SAMPLE  
BORING (DRY)
-  ROTARY SAMPLE  
BORING (WET)
-  AUGER  
BORING (DRY)
-  TEST PIT
-  DIAMOND  
CORE BORING
-  JET BORING
-  ELECTRONIC CONE  
PENETROMETER

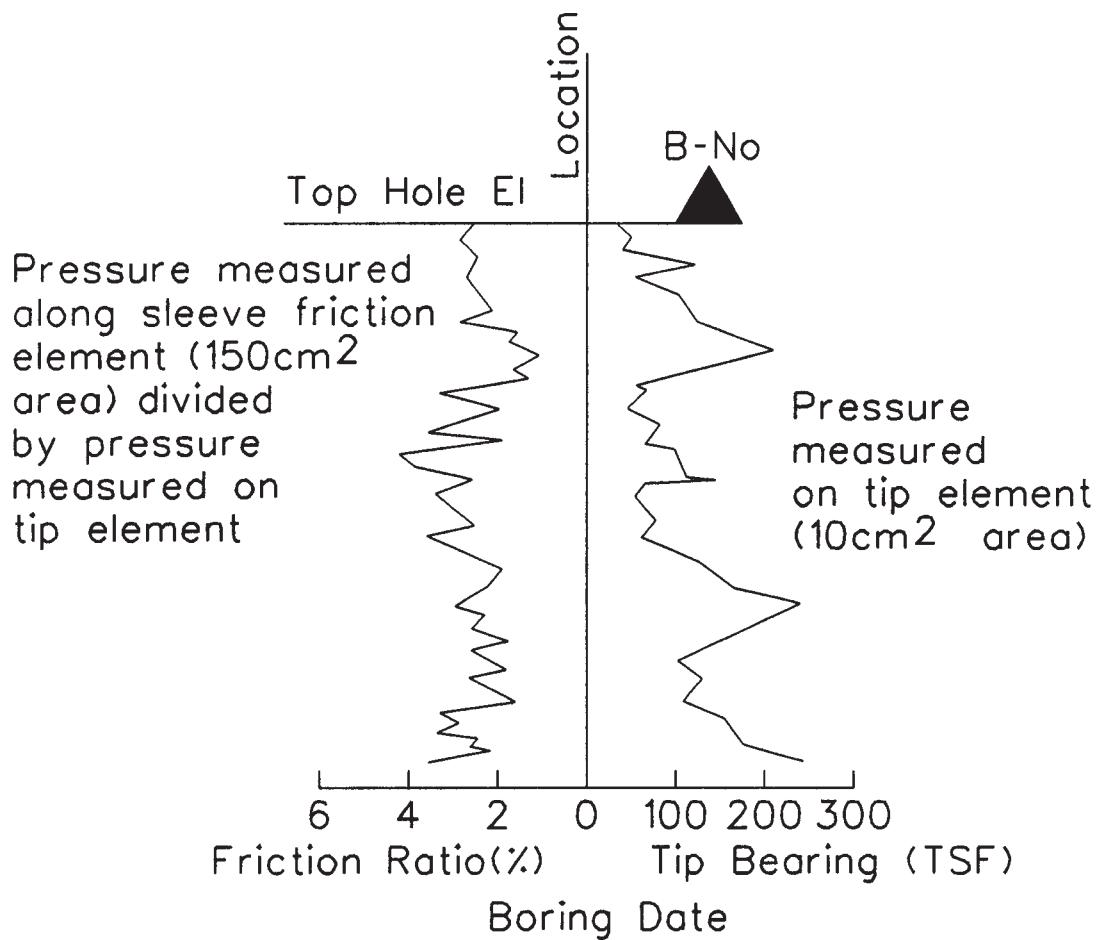


## SAMPLE BORING (DRY)





**2 1/4" CONE  
PENETRATION BORING**



## **ELECTRONIC CONE PENETROMETER TEST**

Cone Penetrometer dimensions and testing procedures are in accordance with ASTM standard D-3441-79, or as noted.

State of California

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

**Memorandum**

**To :** MR. M. W. HORN, Acting Chief  
Office of Structure Design

**Date :** June 2, 1994

Attention Mr. E. K. Thorkildsen  
Design Section 6

**File No. :** 05-SBt-156-7.3/R15.2  
05-027101

**From :** DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – 227-7206  
Division of New Technology, Materials and Research  
Office of Engineering Geology

**San Benito River Bridge**  
Bridge No. 43-0044

**Subject :** Foundation Investigation

A foundation investigation was conducted for the San Benito River Bridge, Bridge No. 43-0044, by the Office of Engineering Geology. The San Benito River Bridge is part of the new alignment of Route 156, Hollister Bypass. The investigation included six 45.7 m (150-foot) deep mud rotary borings and seven 57 mm (2-1/4 inch) cone penetrometer borings drilled in November/December 1993. Also included are three mud rotary borings and one electronic cone penetrometer test performed in September/October 1992 by District 5. Additional borings (beyond the bridge site) are included in District 5 "Materials Information" (MI) package.

**Geology**

The general geology of the site is Cenozoic alluvial deposits of the San Benito River. The subsurface materials are interbedded clays, silts, sands, gravels and scattered small cobbles. The following list gives generalized descriptions and elevations of the soils at the San Benito River Bridge site. Please refer to the Log of Test Borings for better detail.

Generalized elevations

71.6 m (235 ft) - 68.6 m (225 ft)

68.6 m (225 ft) - 57.9 m (190 ft)

57.9 m (190 ft) - 45.7 m (150 ft)

45.7 m (150 ft) - 30.5 m (100 ft)

30.5 m (100 ft) - 24.4 m (80 ft)

Generalized Soil Descriptions

slightly compact to compact sand & gravel

soft to stiff silty clay, slightly compact to compact clayey silt and compact to dense sand

compact to very dense sand and gravel with some small cobbles (up to 3-6 inch)

interbedded compact to hard clay and dense to very dense silt and sand

very dense sand, silt and hard to very hard silty clay

**Ground Water**

Ground water was encountered in the San Benito River channel as shown on the Log of Test Borings. The highest groundwater level measured was elevation 66.8 m (219 ft) in B-2 (near Bent 4). No ground water was encountered at Abutment 1 which is located outside the active river channel. The ground water elevation and surface flow are extremely variable due to the hydrology of the river basin, the seasonal rainfall, and the water withdrawal by the local water district.

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June 2, 1994  
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Bent 4 is located in the live channel of the San Benito River. Water was flowing in the channel in November/December 1993, 0.6-0.9 m (2-3 feet) deep at Bent 4. Surface water may need to be diverted during construction.

### Scour Depth

The San Benito River is actively degrading, producing scour around existing bridges. Approximately one mile upstream from the proposed San Benito River Bridge site, Bridge No. 43-07 (along Highway 152), has a history of scour and embankment erosion problems. Three years after the bridge was built (1953), tetrahedron slope protection was necessary to protect the abutments. Beginning in 1978, man-made alterations to the river channel caused the river to degrade exposing the bent piles as much as 1.5 m (5 feet) below the pile cap (the City of Hollister made channel improvements upstream for the sewer treatment plant in 1978, and aggregate mining in the riverbed commenced downstream in 1989). Maintenance on the embankments and bents requires continuous addition of rip-rap and backfill.

Man-made alterations to the river will strongly influence the amount of scour and degradation of the channel. Aggregate mining will occur upstream and downstream of the San Benito River Bridge. Therefore, predicted scour depth elevations (due to mining) provided by Preliminary Investigations will be used for pile cut-off elevations. The Division of Structures, Preliminary Investigations Section, has predicted scour depth elevations to 56.7 m (186 ft) at the bent locations and 61.3 m (201 ft) at the abutments.

The historical scour depth elevation in the San Benito River channel, as determined from soil borings, extends to elevation 68.6 m (225 ft) at the channel edges and elevation 67.1 m (220 ft) in the active channel. The current design locates Abutment 1 24.4 m (80 ft) west of the channel edge with the bottom of pile cap elevation at 70.4 m (231 ft). Due to expected river alterations and subsequent channel erosion, the soil beneath Abutment 1 could be eroded, exposing the pile cap. Therefore, the bottom of pile cap at Abutment 1 should be constructed below the historical scour depth elevation of 68.6 m (225 ft). Rock Slope Protection could protect the pile cap, but future maintenance may be required. Abutment 6 should be constructed below historical scour depth elevation 67.1 m (220 ft). Abutment 6 is located in the active river flood plain with the bottom of pile cap placed at elevation 65.5 m (215 ft).

Rock Slope Protection (RSP) shall be placed at both Abutments 1 and 6. At Abutment 6, RSP shall extend to elevation 64.0 m (210 ft), 1.5 m (5 ft) below the bottom of pile cap elevation. At Abutment 1, RSP shall extend to elevation 67.1 m (220 ft), 3.4 m (11 ft) below the proposed bottom of pile cap elevation, and 1.5 m (5 ft) below the historical scour depth elevation at channel edge.

### Fault and Seismic Data

The site is located near two major active faults. The nearest known potentially active fault is the Sargent fault ( $M=6.75$ ). The Sargent fault is located 1.9 km (1.2 miles) northwest of the site. The Calaveras fault ( $M=7.5$ ) is located 3.1 km (1.9 miles) to the east. The predicted maximum credible horizontal bedrock acceleration is 0.7g from the Calaveras fault. Use Design Force Coefficient Curve " $>47.7$ " ( $>150$ ).

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### Settlement Periods

District 5 Materials Laboratory has analyzed the foundation soil settlements at the approach embankments for the San Benito River Bridge. Abutment 1 is anticipated to have 17.8 mm (0.7 inch) of long-term settlement requiring a 30-day fill delay prior to pile installation. Abutment 6 is not anticipated to have long-term settlement and no fill delay is required. Please contact Ron Richman, District 5 DME for further details.

### Corrosion

Preliminary test results show that the San Benito River site is a non-corrosive environment.

### Foundation Recommendations

Cast-In-Drilled-Hole (CIDH) piles using slurry displacement are recommended for support of the structure shown on the "General Plan" dated 12/14/93. Specified pile tip elevations for 3.05 m (120-inch) and 0.91 m (36-inch) diameter CIDH piles are shown in Tables 1 and 2. The design loads were supplied by Structure Design and are noted in the tables.

Due to future aggregate mining in the river, the pile cut-off elevations correspond to the predicted scour elevations as determined by Preliminary Investigations (report dated 11/23/93). The piles are considered to be unsupported by soil above the predicted scour elevations of 56.7 m (186 ft) at the bent supports and 61.3 m (201 ft) at the abutments.

The bent support design loads, given in Table 1, do not include the pile weight [1673 kN (188 tons)] from the column bottom to the cut-off elevation [elevation 66.4 m (218 ft) to 56.7 m (186 ft)]. Therefore, the specified pile tip elevations for Bents 2, 3, 4, and 5 were determined by adding 1673 kN (188 tons) to the design load.

Table 1  
3.05 m (120-inch) CIDH Pile Data (2)  
Bent Supports

Location	Diameter	Design Loading (1) (Service Load)	Pile Cut-off Elevation (3)(4)	Specified Tip Elevation
Bent 2	3.05 m (120-inch)	15040 kN (1690 tons)	56.7 m (186 ft)	25.3 m (83 ft)
Bent 3	3.05 m (120-inch)	15580 kN (1750 tons)	56.7 m (186 ft)	26.8 m (88 ft)
Bent 4	3.05 m (120-inch)	15580 kN (1750 tons)	56.7 m (186 ft)	25.6 m (84 ft)
Bent 5	3.05 m (120-inch)	15040 kN (1690 tons)	56.7 m (186 ft)	26.5 m (87 ft)

- (1) The ultimate compressive capacity is 2x design load.
- (2) Method of support is friction and end bearing.
- (3) CIDH piles are considered unsupported by the soil above the cut-off elevation.
- (4) No casing is to remain below the cut-off elevation

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Table 2  
0.91 m (36-inch) CIDH Pile Data (2)  
Abutment Supports

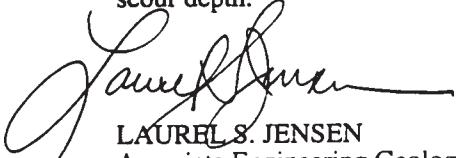
Location	Diameter	Design Loading (Service Load) (1)	Pile Cut-off Elevation (4)	Specified Tip Elevation (3)
Abutment 1 (5)	0.91 m (36-inch)	1340 kN (150 tons)	61.3 m (201 ft)	51.8 m (170 ft)
Abutment 6 (6)	0.91 m (36-inch)	1340 kN (150 tons)	61.3 m (201 ft)	51.8 m (170 ft)

- (1) The ultimate compressive capacity is 2x design load.
- (2) Method of support is skin friction.
- (3) Battered CIDH piles shall not be used.
- (4) CIDH piles are considered unsupported by the soil above the cut-off/scour depth elevation.
- (5) 30-day fill delay required for Abutment 1. See District 5 Materials report.
- (6) No fill delay required for Abutment 6.

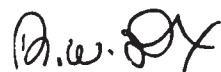
### Constructability

Slurry displacement is recommended for constructing the CIDH piles at all support locations. Caving and loss of slurry mud may be a problem, especially in the sand and gravel layer between elevation 57.9 m and 45.7 m (190-150 ft – generalized elevations – refer to Log of Test Borings for detailed elevations). Jetting may create large voids especially in the sand layers; therefore, jetting should be avoided. Due to shallow tip elevations and low ground water elevations at Abutments 1 and 6, slurry displacement may not be necessary. The tip elevation at Abutment 6 extends 1.5 m (5 feet) into ground water as measured on November 30, 1993 (ground water could be higher during construction).

If temporary casing is used during construction, all casing below the scour depth/cut-off elevation shall be removed. The piles will not achieve design load if casing remains below the scour depth.



LAUREL S. JENSEN  
Associate Engineering Geologist



R. W. FOX, C.E.G. No. 78  
Senior Engineering Geologist

cc: Preliminary Report  
R.E. Pending File  
DBarlow - Specs & Estimates  
District 5 (2)  
ELeivas - OEG  
Engr. Geology (4)